(b) The architectural drawing for the proposed telephone exchange building have been submitted to the local authorities for approval

This exchange is likely to be commissioned during the later half of the 8th Five Year Plan subject to availability of resources.

Utilisation of Telecommunications facility in Tamil Nadu

3302. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is under utilisation of telecommunication facility in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the annual total revenue earning from the telecommunication system in Tamil Nadu in 1986 and 1987 separately;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the potential revenue increase if the STD rates are reduced; and

(d) what steps have been taken to implement reduction of STD rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The total annual revenue earning from Telecommunication system in Tamil Nadu is given as under:—

(i) During 86-87 . Rs. 1,74,63,55,786.43

(ii) During 87-88 Rs. 2,32,20,83,731.13

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The work of technical modification required in the telephone exchanges for introduction of the plan to reduce the STD tariff between 10 P.M. to 6 A.M. for national STD calls to about 33 per cent of the normal period is in progress.

Improvement in the telegraphic system

3303. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the public dissatisfaction with the telegraphic system;

(b) whether it is possible to refund the amount for all telegrams not delivered within 24 hours; and

(c) what measures Government are taking to improve the telegraphic system to achieve at least their 95 per cent timely delivery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Although some complaints have been received from the members of public against delay in delivery of telegrams and poor service in remote rural areas, there has been significant improvement in the telegraph service in the country.

(b) It is possible to refund the telegraph charges for telegrams not delivered within 24 hours if the telegram has not served its purpose.

(c) The Department has initiated the following measures to improve the telegraph system:

1. Providing standby power supply units in Telegraph Officers in a phased manner to combat load shedding;

2. Using isulated wire in fault prone jungle of plantation areas to reduce fault incidence on telegraph circuits working on open wire lines;

3. Installation of store and forward message switching systems to avoid manua transiting and to reduce consequent delays and congestion of traffic;

4. Replacement of electromechanical teleprinters and morse key system with electronic teleprinters and electronic key boards.